

Ref. T2/5.01

AREA SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS

**Notification of an agreement on search and rescue regions in accordance
with paragraph 2.1.4 of the International Convention
on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979**

Notification by Spain and the United Kingdom

1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Spain on search and rescue services in the North Atlantic, in accordance with paragraph 2.1.4 of the 1979 SAR Convention.

2 The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND
NORTHERN IRELAND
AND
THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN
ON
SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES
IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC**

The Department of Transport of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

and

The Ministry of Public Works, Transport and the Environment of the Kingdom of Spain (hereinafter called the "Parties")

have, in accordance with Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed at Chicago on 7 December 1944 ("Chicago Convention"), and paragraph 2.1.4 of Chapter 2 of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979 ("the SAR Convention"), reached the following understanding:

SECTION 1

1. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Spain will each be responsible for Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue (SAR) in the regions which are assigned to them in the European Regional Plan, and which are the same as those delimited in the Provisional Maritime Search and Rescue Plan, IMO SAR.2/Circ.2/Rev.2 dated 29 November 1990. The common boundary between the regions assigned to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to the Kingdom of Spain corresponds to the dividing line joining the co-ordinates 45° 00N 008°W and 45°00N 013°W between the Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue Regions (SRR) of both countries.

2. The delimitation of the border between the areas of responsibility in the Atlantic between the SRRs of the Kingdom of Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will not prejudice any agreement relating to any territorial or other delimitation between the two Governments.

3. Based on the above specified responsibilities, the Parties have decided to align their aeronautical and maritime SRRs with the dividing lines delineated in the Provisional Maritime SAR Plan IMO SAR.2/Circ.2/Rev.2 dated 29 November 1990.

SECTION 2

1. To improve the co-operation within the designated zones of responsibility, an Operational Arrangement (OA) will be concluded between the appropriate United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) and Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) and the corresponding Kingdom of Spain RCC and MRCC.

2. The Maritime SAR Services will co-operate in the manner specified in Chapter 3 of the Annex to the SAR Convention. SAR units may, upon notice to, and approval from, the appropriate RCC or MRCC, enter into or fly over the SRR and territorial waters of the other Party for the purpose of locating and subsequently rescuing maritime casualties.

3. Aeronautical SAR will be conducted in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Document 7333 and Annex 12 to the Chicago Convention; the SAR units thereof may operate in a manner similar to that laid down in Section 2.2 of this Memorandum.

4. The conditions regarding operational co-operation and co-ordination between the Parties will be set out in the Operational Arrangement referred to in Section 2.1, having regard to the following areas:

- (a) Standardization of the content, format and timing of relevant Notices to Airmen (NOTAM) and entries in the Aeronautical Information Publications (AIPs);

- (b) With regard to maritime SAR, and with a view to incorporating the provisions of paragraph 3.1.8 of the SAR Convention, an agreement regarding the pooling of facilities, the establishment of common procedures, the conduct of joint exercises and practices, regular checking of interstate communication channels, visits by personnel from the rescue centres and maritime SAR units, and the exchange of SAR information will be concluded directly between the Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres of the Parties;
- (c) With regard to aeronautical SAR, and with a view to incorporating the provisions of paragraph 3.1.8 of the Annex to the SAR Convention, an agreement will be concluded directly between the SAR directorate of the Kingdom of Spain and the Department of Transport Civil Aviation Directorate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on: the establishment of common procedures, the conduct of joint exercises and practices, regular checking of interstate communication channels, visits by personnel from RCCs and aeronautical SAR units, the exchange of SAR information and the necessary aeronautical arrangements;
- (d) The responsible SAR authorities of both Parties will be authorized to contact each other directly on any matter common to their respective activities within the framework of this Memorandum;
- (e) The responsible SAR authorities for the purposes of operational co-operation will be represented as follows:

For the Kingdom of Spain,
Dirección General de la Marina Mercante (General Directorate of Merchant Marine)
operative through the Sociedad Estatal de Salvamento y Seguridad Marítima (State Maritime Rescue and Safety Organisation).

Dirección General de Aviación Civil (General Directorate of Civil Aviation) operative
through the Jefatura del Servicio de Búsqueda y Salvamento Aéreo (SAR Directorate of
the Search and Rescue Service).

For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
The Coastguard Agency of the Department of Transport.
The Civil Aviation Directorate of the Department of Transport.

- (f) The representatives of the SAR authorities should meet at least once a year. The purpose of that meeting will be to analyse the operations and exercises carried out since the last meeting, to schedule training exercises for the following year, to study general or particular collaboration procedures as dictated by experience, and to exchange information on SAR equipment and techniques;
- (g) Representatives of the responsible SAR authorities may meet outside of the meetings described in paragraph 2.4(f) where this is deemed necessary.

SECTION 3

1. The Parties will inform the international organisations affected about this Memorandum.
2. The Parties may present this Memorandum to other maritime or aeronautical authorities.

SECTION 4

1. This Memorandum will come into operation on the date of signature. It will have effect for an indefinite period. It may be terminated by either Party giving not less than six (6) months notice in writing to the other.

SECTION 5

1. This Memorandum contains the understanding reached between the Department of Transport of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and the Environment of the Kingdom of Spain on the matters reflected therein.

SECTION 6

1. This Memorandum is distributed in duplicate in the English and the Spanish languages, both texts having equal validity. One copy is for the Department of Transport of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the other is for the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and the Environment of the Kingdom of Spain.

Signed:

For the Department of Transport
of the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

For the Ministry of Public Works,
Transport and the Environment of
the Kingdom of Spain

on: 28-11-95
